

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent.

Claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended herein. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Applicants have amended the term “member” in the claims to read --holder--. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112 rejection are requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,613,820 (“Edelstein”). Claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Edelstein in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,138,302 (“Sashin”). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 of the invention, as amended, recites an apparatus for use in RF shielding. The apparatus includes a holder including RF shielding and configured for adjoining a magnet associated with magnet-RF-shielding. When the holder is adjoined to the magnet, the RF shielding of the holder and the magnet-RF-shielding form a substantially complete RF shield.

According to the claimed invention, nuclear magnetic resonance procedures can be performed without a dedicated, RF-shielded room.

Edelstein, which relates to an RF shielded room for an NMR imaging system, discloses a system including a shielded room 10 and a magnet 11. A shield member 16, which is in electrical connection with at least one wall portion of the shielded room 10, extends through the bore of the magnet 11.

In Edelstein, the magnet 11 is “outside” an RF shield formed in part by the shielded room 10 and the shield member 16. The magnet itself does not provide a portion of the RF

shielding of the system of Edelstein. Applicants submit that Edelstein thus fails to teach or suggest at least that when a holder is adjoined to a magnet, RF shielding of the holder and magnet-RF-shielding form a substantially complete RF shield, as recited in independent Claim 1 of the subject application.

As to Sashin, Applicants submit that it also fails to teach or suggest at least that when a holder is adjoined to a magnet, RF shielding of the holder and magnet-RF-shielding form a substantially complete RF shield.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes the invention over the cited art, whether taken alone or in combination. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons that their independent base claim is allowable, and further due to the additional features that they recite. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the application are requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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